



Youth Worker Safety

The Construction Industry

Late spring and early summer is the beginning of the busy construction season for many construction contractors and employers in Michigan. At the same time many high school and college youth become available for summer jobs. Construction employers may hire some of these young workers to help them through the busy construction season. **Many construction activities are restricted for workers under the age of 18.**

Work Environment:

Activities that may be restricted

- Excavation, highway, bridge, or street construction, roofing, wrecking, or demolition
- New commercial or new residential construction including clean up.
- Contact with hazardous substances, chemicals, explosives or radioactive substances
- Operating large construction equipment such as cranes and bulldozers
- Operating power driven woodworking equipment, tools, saws, or machinery
- Brazing, welding, soldering or heat-treating

Activities typically permitted

- Painting with latex paint in residential construction using a stepladder
- Maintain/distribute tools and materials
- Conduct office activities in jobsite trailer

Primary Hazards

- Heights greater than six feet
- Electric shock
- Caught by rotating and moving equipment
- Struck by moving vehicles and equipment
- Trench and excavation cave-in
- Chemical burns and excessive exposure
- Thermal burns from hot metal
- Lifting heavy objects
- Exposure to extreme temperature

Solutions:

Clothing & Protective Equipment

- Wear appropriate work boots, long pants, sleeves and gloves
- Wear head protection (hard hat) and eye protection in all construction zones
- Wear hearing protection when around noisy equipment
- Wear lightweight/light-colored clothing in hot environments

Tools & Equipment

- Inspect tools and equipment before use
- Maintain a safe distance from rotating and moving equipment

Other Job Safety Issues

- Get help lifting/use safe-lifting devices
- Provide appropriate training to recognize workplace hazards
- Train on any chemicals that will be used
- Read and obey all warning signs
- Keep the job site clean
- Ensure adequate ventilation when exposed to airborne contaminants
- Use sunscreen when outdoors
- Drink plenty of water in hot environments
- Replace salts and minerals in a hot environment
- When unsure, ask questions
- Do not perform work if you have not been trained

Employers must be aware that certain construction work is restricted for workers under the age of 18 by the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth, Wage & Hour Division. For more information, visit the Wage Hour website at: www.michigan.gov/wagehour, click; Youth Employment; Restricted Occupations, or call (517) 335-0400.

Or contact:

Consultation Education & Training Division
Michigan Occupational Safety & Health Administration
7150 Harris Drive, PO Box 30643, Lansing, Michigan
517-322-1809 or www.michigan.gov/miosha

